

Application No. 10/811,168

Filed: March 26, 2004

TC Art Unit: 3677

Confirmation No.: 1995

REMARKS

In the most recent Office Action, claims 1 and 3 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected.

In response, claim 1 is amended. New claims 24-37 representing reinstated canceled claims 2, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 16-21 and 23 are added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 24-37 are pending in the application. No new matter is added.

Applicant responds to the comments in the Office Action as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action states that claims 1 and 3 are rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Anscher (U.S. Patent No. 5,855,057). In particular, the Office Action states that Anscher teaches each and every element recited in the rejected claims.

Claim 1 of the present invention is amended to recite a latch on a central arm that is free from engagement when the buckle is clasped. In addition, claim 1 recites a disengagement device that is integral with the socket or plug to disengage an engagement involving the central arm. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3 recite limitations that are not taught in the cited prior art reference

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by Anscher. Because the disclosure by Anscher does not teach all the claim limitations of claims 1 and 3, Applicant submits that the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is overcome, and respectfully requests that it be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Reinstated Claims

In the previous response, claims 2, 6 and 8-23 were canceled in anticipation of allowance of claims 1 and 3. As claims 1 and 3 were rejected in the most recent Office Action, Applicant reinstates claims 2, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 16-21 and 23 as new claims 24-37. Entry and consideration of these claims, reciting subject matter previously examined in the present application, is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that new claims 24-37 are patentable over the previously cited prior art references, whether taken alone or in combination, since they recite similar limitations to those found in claim 1. Applicant respectfully believes that claims 24-37 are distinguished over the cited prior art references applied in previous Office Actions, and respectfully requests that these claims be found allowable.

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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present Application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits notice to that effect. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned counsel at the number provided below to discuss any matter that may expedite a disposition of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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